

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/829,597

Examiner

Mary J. Steelman

Applicant(s)

TANG ET AL.

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 7/24/2006.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 49, 50, 52-66 (to be renumbered in order).
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
- (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
- 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 6. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date <u>8/21/2006</u> . |
| 3. <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____ | 7. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment |
| 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material | 8. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance |
| | 9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____. |

DETAILED ACTION

1. This Office Action is in response to Remarks and Amendments received 7/24/2006. Per Applicant's request, claims 61-66 have been amended. Claims 1-48 and 51 are canceled. Claims 49, 50, and 52-66 are pending.

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

2. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Jayanthi Minisandram, Reg. No. 53,330 and Al Penilla, Reg. No. 39,487 on 17 August 2006.

The application has been amended as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS:

49. (Currently amended): A graphical display interface portal tangibly embodied on a computer readable media, the graphical display interface portal providing a user interface for interactivity, comprising:

a document display area of a user interface display screen, the document display area defining a currently active program object that is executing enables program interaction by a user and displays updated results; and

a neighborhood panel presented on the user interface display screen along side the document display area, such that the neighborhood panel is concurrently illustrated when the currently active program object for the user is present, the neighborhood panel including a list of one or more users and a list of one or more program objects,

the list of one or more users being automatically displayed in the neighborhood panel, each user in the list of one or more users being dynamically selected for display in the neighborhood panel based on a relationship between the user and the currently active program object, the relationship being defined by a metric; and

the list of one or more program objects being automatically displayed in the neighborhood panel, each program object in the list of one or more program objects being dynamically selected for display in the neighborhood panel based on a relationship between the program object and the currently active program object, the relationship being defined by a metric;

wherein automatically displaying the list of one or more users and the list of one or more program objects in neighborhood panel provides a viewable interrelationship and an accessible link to the users and program objects that are most related to the currently active program object, as defined by the metric for the users and the metric for the program objects, and wherein the accessible link to either the

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users or the program objects is presented as an icon, the icon providing a graphical or text indicator of a type for the accessible link.

60. (Currently amended): A computer implemented method of accessing a related item through a graphical user interface (GUI) that provides graphical access and interactivity, comprising:

displaying a currently active program object that is executing in a display area, [and] the currently active program object allowing user interaction and displaying updated results with aspects of the active program object;

automatically generating a dynamic list of related users and program objects for the currently active program object based on a metric;

concurrently displaying the list of related users and program objects in a neighborhood panel, such that the neighborhood panel is displayed along with the currently active program object in the display area; and

enabling access to at least one of the related users or program objects through the neighborhood panel, wherein access to either the users or the program objects is enabled through an icon, the icon providing a graphical or text indicator of a type for the access.

THE END

Allowable Subject Matter

3. Claims 49, 50, and 52-66 (to be renumbered in order) are allowed.
4. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

As Applicant has noted on page 7, last paragraph, Fernandes (USPN 6,014,135) "does not disclose or teach providing a document display area that defines a currently active program object and a neighborhood panel alongside document display area that includes list of users and list of program objects related to the currently active program object."

As Applicant has noted on page 8, first paragraph, Fernandes (USPN 6,014,135) in combination with Flinn (USPN 6,795,826) "would not provide the document display area to define a currently active program object that enables program interaction by a user along with a neighborhood panel that displays a list of related users and list of related program objects."

Flinn, Fernandes, and other cited prior arts, taken alone or in combination, fail to disclose all limitations of independent claims 49 and 60 including:

"a currently active program object the is executing", "each user in the list of one or more users being dynamically selected for display", and "each program object in the list of one or more program objects being dynamically selected for display" in combination with "wherein automatically displaying the list of one or more users and the list of one or more program objects in neighborhood panel provides a viewable interrelationship and an accessible link to the users and program objects that are most related to the currently active program object, as defined by the metric for the users and the metric for the program objects, and wherein the accessible link to

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either the users or the program objects is presented as an icon, the icon providing a graphical or text indicator of a type for the accessible link.”

The prior art of record does not teach or render obvious the limitations as recited, when taken in the context of the claims as a whole. Moreover, evidence for modifying the prior art teachings by one of ordinary skill level in the art was not uncovered so as to result in the invention.

Thus, all remaining claims, dependent claims 50, 52-59, and 61-66, are allowed.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled “Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance.”

Conclusion

5. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant’s disclosure.


Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Mary Steelman, whose telephone number is (571) 272-3704. The examiner can normally be reached Monday through Thursday, from 7:00 AM to 5:30 PM. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner’s supervisor, Wei Zhen can be reached at (571) 272-3708. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned: 571-273-8300.

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Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application should be directed to the TC 2100 Group receptionist: 571-272-2100.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Mary Steelman

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mary Steelman", written in a cursive style.

08/21/2006